

Atkins, Caelan

From: Russell Bowie [REDACTED] >
Sent: 17 March 2023 18:19
To: Aquind Interconnector
Subject: Aquind interconnector

Categories: Consultation Response

March 17, 2023.

To: David Wagstaff OBE

Re: Aquind Interconnector proposal

Dear Mr Wagstaff,

As local residents living adjacent to the proposed interconnector route we would like to lodge our strongest objection to this ill-thought out project which will wreak havoc on our heavily populated city and environs. Whatever the pros and cons of such interconnectors, it simply defies logic, let alone planning logic, to rip up vast tranches of Portsmouth's scarce green areas such as Milton Common and cause two years of devastating traffic chaos on one of the main arteries linking this great waterfront city to the mainland - yes, Portsmouth is on an island.

With tens of millions of pounds currently being well spent on providing upgraded coastal defences it makes no sense to have a large section removed in the planned construction of the interconnector.

With the new Entente Cordiale heralded recently by the Prime Minister and French President it is clearly wise to share required resources but this particular project is simply not supported on either side of the Channel.

There is total cross-party opposition in local government here to the project, as evidenced by Portsmouth North's MP, Penny Mordaunt. She is working closely with and fully backs the united opposition of the Liberal Democrat-led Portsmouth City Council and Labour representatives.

We know you will be aware of all of the valid points raised by other objectors but we really feel it is our democratic right and duty to express our opinions to you as well.

We were aghast at the High Court judge rejecting Mr Kwarteng's original refusal and hope that his successor, Secretary of State Grant Shapps, and his new Department will agree with Portsmouth's united opposition and refuse Aquind permission based on sound planning law and see that other routes are available if the interconnector is needed in the first place.

As far as we can tell, Aquind has acted in a very dubious fashion, doing its best to buy its way into the hearts of the local communities by financing or offering to finance community groups. That also goes for their equally dubious donations to the Conservative Party and individuals within it. Everything about this company is highly irregular and the Secretary of State should conclusively refuse Aquind's application.

Finally, we want to point out the devastating impact on our area's coastal environment and the threat this project brings to the nationally and internationally important wetland and the many protected species of migrating birds.

Portsmouth has backbone when it comes to campaigning and we will fight tooth and nail using all possible legal routes to protect every square metre of our green and coastal environment.

Thank you very much for listening to our comments and we trust the Secretary of State will also visit our area to see for himself just how this interconnector proposal would slash through large parts of our cherished city over a protracted timescale. We would welcome a site visit and provide Mr Shapps with coffee and biscuits!

The Aquind interconnector route through Portsmouth is the wrong route, the most expensive route and other routes should be investigated and kept away from such highly populated areas and environmentally sensitive nature sites.

With best wishes,

Russell and Debbie Bowie.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Tel: [REDACTED]

/*